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GPW Report No. 49-A--COMMUNIST CHINA

(Nov. 17-23, 1952)

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SUMMARY

With final announcement that all Government offices will study Soviet 19th Congress documents, the tone for SSF Month is established. Activities move into the localities, where Soviet delegations give instructions to local groups, while Soviet films and photo exhibits demonstrate the superiority of the Soviet way of life and the debt China owes the USSR. Soviet experts in China are the living heroes to be honored, while attention still is called to the fact that eight Soviet flyers buried at Hankow died defending China. World developments that divide and weaken the imperialist camp and strengthen the peace-loving democracies ruled by the USSR prove that Stalin is the true prophet, to whom all peoples must eventually swear allegiance. The drive to Russianize China through Soviet publications and Russian-language lessons continues, amid elaborate boasts of progress made. The Central Government takes a firmer grip, Russian style, reducing regional Governments to mere committees serving Peking. It is asserted that the USSR also celebrates SSF Month, but little supporting evidence is available.

Apparently the drive to Russianize the courts has failed, as the new Government reorganization plans a "replacement in its entirety" of the local judiciary. Existence of economic and trade problems is evident in efforts to blame private businessmen for production failures; attempts to make in China precision instruments that have become scarce and expensive; and admission that a big boost in mandarin orange shipments to the USSR from one province still leaves exports of this product far short of prewar figures.

War comment stresses low American morale and tremendous Communist victories, but apprehension at possible moves by the incoming American President is suggested. Eisenhower Cabinet appointments indicate heavier U.S. armaments and further exploitation of the poor American workers, while relatively little is said of truce possibilities, perhaps because of doubt as to Soviet plans. Shanghai starts antiaircraft practice with live ammunition, and British property in China is confiscated.

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